

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

**Claim 1 (Currently Amended)** An isolated 16S rDNA sequence indicative of a dechlorinating bacterial strain selected from the group consisting of:

(a) ~~SEQ ID NO:1, SEQ ID NO:2, SEQ ID NO:3, SEQ ID NO:4, SEQ ID NO:5, SEQ ID NO:6, SEQ ID NO:8, SEQ ID NO:30, and SEQ ID NO:34; and~~

~~(b) an isolated nucleic acid molecule that hybridizes with (a) under the following hybridization conditions: 0.1X SSC, 0.1% SDS at 65°C; and~~

(be) an isolated nucleic acid molecule that is completely complementary to (a) or (b).  
wherein said sequence is indicative of a dechlorinating bacterial strain

**Claim 2 (Canceled)**

**Claim 3 (Canceled)**

**Claim 4 (Canceled)**

**Claim 5 (Currently Amended)** An isolated bacterial strain comprising any one of the sequences of Claims 1, 3 or 4 wherein said strain has the ability to dechlorinate chlorinated compounds.

**Claims 6 - 14 (Canceled)**